In your first years using organic fertilizers, what was your biggest learning curve experience?

Different release rates for organic sources, difference between total and available, timing of release. Often overestimated amount that would be available.
How frequently do you take soil samples in organic blocks?

Range of answers: yearly; twice a year on some blocks; every 3rd year on established blocks, maybe every year or so on sandy or caliche soils, transition blocks.
What are the top issues you look for in your soil analysis?

Organic matter, pH, salts; nutrient levels, balance of nutrients; boron levels
Do you utilize standard soil analysis and/or use any “alternative” soil analysis?

Standard; both standard (fall) and saturated paste extract (spring)
How frequently do you take leaf samples?

Annually or semi-annually in problem blocks, otherwise biennially in established blocks; not much, can see problems visually; prefer soil analysis coupled with fruit analysis.
What is your main form(s) of soil applied organic fertilizer Nitrogen that you apply to supply Nitrogen to the tree?

Chicken manure compost, mint compost; chicken plus feather meal and blood meal; fish product through drip if needed
Amendments build up a reservoir of nutrients that releases slowly into the soil.

Has this been your experience?

Yes, with compost, see the accumulated contribution over years, now backing off N inputs; no really, backed off on compost, saw reduced tree growth the next year.
What equipment do you use to apply the N to the soil?

Whatcom spreaders, Wilmar, Vicon
Have you had any issues with manures causing problems with excess Phosphorus and Potassium and do you take steps to avoid this?

Yes, seeing elevated P, K, rarely go above 1 ton/ac. Chicken compost, supplement with other hi N materials; can cause bitterpit in apple, counter with gypsum.
Do you apply foliar N?
If so, what product(s), how much and how many applications?

Some fish in early spring; fish or poultry peptone at pre-pink and after hand thin; no
How much total N do you apply to a typical Gala orchard per season?
How many applications?

60-120 lb/ac total N; split fall and spring; 40-50 lb N/ac early May as feathermeal, bloodmeal
How much total N do you apply to a typical Fuji orchard per season?

How many applications?

More variable rate; 60-80 lb/ac; 1-2 application dates
How do you determine how much N the trees are receiving from the soil applied organic fertilizer?

Watch vigor, shoot growth, leaf size and color; compare against test results; figure 100% available from bloodmeal/feathermeal
Do you utilize legume cover crops to supply Nitrogen?
If so, what kind do you grow and how much of your Nitrogen budget does it supply?

Yes and no, rodents are a big factor; supplies 20 lb N/ac; yes with mow and blow, get 20-50% of N; clover, alfalfa
THANK YOU!